

WASHINGTON, DC - Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD) released the following statement today marking Earth Day:

"Today marks the 39th Earth Day, a day to reflect on the progress we've made for the health of our planet and build awareness and support for all that remains to be done.

"Congress is working with the Obama Administration to address one challenge that has been ignored for too long: our nation's energy crisis. Energy legislation is not only critical to the health of our planet, but is also a vital part of our efforts to rebuild the economy. Such legislation will help create new 'clean energy' jobs for American workers, promote new sources of renewable energy, advance our nation's energy independence, increase energy efficiency, and limit and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

"This week, the Energy and Commerce Committee is holding hearings on the discussion draft of 'The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009.' Over the next five weeks, Chairmen Waxman and Markey will continue working with members of the committee to build broad consensus around comprehensive energy legislation with a goal of reporting a bill out of committee by Memorial Day. This is a significant step toward the clean energy future that Americans voted for in November."

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